

Appn. No. 10/062,700
Amendment Dated January 18, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2006

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Remarks

Claims 1 to 26 remain in the application.

The present invention concerns methods and apparatus used to determine the physical connectivity configuration of the nodes in a communications network assuming that the physical connectivity configuration of at least a portion of the network is unknown. The claimed methods discover the connectivity of a network without knowledge of the topology (physical connectivity configuration) of the nodes (ATM switches, Frame Relay switches, Routers, etc.)

Claims 11 and 23 are amended consonant with the Examiner's comments to be placed in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12 and 24 are dependent upon claims 11 and 23, respectively. It is respectfully submitted that claims 11, 12, 23, and 24 are now in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by newly cited U.S. Patent No. 6,859,452 (Crooks). The rejection is based on the Examiner's statement that Crooks teaches a method to determine a physical connectivity configuration without using prior knowledge of port interconnections. There is no substantiation that Crooks does not use prior knowledge of the port interconnections in practicing the method.

The topology discovery process in Figure 4 of Crooks fails to teach or even suggest receiving status information without using prior knowledge of port interconnections relating to nodes in the portion of the network whose network unknown physical connectivity configuration is to be determined as claimed by Applicants in independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 26.

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Moreover, as noted in the Office Action, the TDU examines each of the ATM interfaces and retrieves and stores IP address, the subnet mask, the city, the state and VPI/VCI for each ATM interface, thereby creating a list of physical and logical information representing the ATM interface end points. The list in Table I includes port information which is presumably obtained a priori.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Crooks fails to teach or even suggest the determining of physical connectivity without using prior knowledge of port interconnections as claimed by Applicants in independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 26 and hence, the claims 1, 13, 25 and 26 should be deemed allowable over Crooks.

Dependent claims 2-10 and 14-22 provide limitations on their respective independent claims and hence should likewise be deemed allowable over Crooks.

Reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1 to 26 as currently amended are respectfully solicited.

The Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-1822 the fee due under 37 CFR 1.17(a) of \$120.00 for a one month extension of the time to reply to the Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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